

Special Announcement



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

No. 09-03

Date: 11-24-2009

Subject: Results of Monitoring Lead in Drinking Water

The Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) operates public water systems regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). These regulatory agencies require us to regularly test tap water from various locations on the Main Base, Wallops Mainland, and Wallops Island for lead and copper content.

In accordance with the VDH approved testing plan, 15 sites were evaluated at WFF during July – September 2009 monitoring. The sites tested included the NOAA Facility, Navy Building Q-29, as well as, NASA Buildings A-1, E-107, F-1, F-5, F-10, F-160, M-15, N-162, U-30, U-55, W-65, X-15, and Y-55. The lead results for the Main Base exceeded the Action Level at two sites, Buildings Q-29 and E-107. The Action Level for lead is 15 ppb, and our 90th percentile result was 16.5 ppb. The Mainland and Island lead results were below the established Action levels. Copper concentrations all locations were below the established Actions Levels of 1.3 ppm. As required by the testing plan, the taps within the buildings sampled were unfiltered (typically restroom sinks, janitorial sinks, etc.), and were sampled following at least six (6) hours of water line dormancy (to simulate worst-case conditions of lead leaching from pipes into water). Because samples from these locations exceeded the regulatory threshold, we are required to continue our lead education program and conduct further testing. Test results show that lead is not in the ground water supplying our drinking water; rather it is from corrosion of the distribution system. To reduce lead levels in drinking water, a program was initiated in 1997 to install filters on all WFF water fountains. These filters have been shown to effectively remove 98.5 percent of lead in a drinking water sample. Also, a corrosion control systems were installed in August 2005. The WFF Operations and Maintenance personnel are routinely flushing water mains and interior building taps to better distribute the corrosion inhibitor and to optimize the systems' lead and copper reducing potential.

We are required to provide the enclosed information to the consumers served by our water systems. This information is in the format required by the EPA regulation on lead and copper monitoring and portions of the information may not be directly applicable to our facility. It will help you to understand the risks and how to minimize your exposure. It also includes sources to contact for additional information. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this announcement, please contact the WFF Environmental Office at (757) 824-1327.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline R. Massey".

Caroline R. Massey
Assistant Director of Management Operations

Enclosure

Distribution: 100 200 400 500 600 700 800 Contractors